Vol. VII. Numb. 77

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Impriſonment of two Preſbyterian Miniſters in Ireland, *for preaching; and a Chaplain of one of her Majeſty's Men of War, making a Non-jurant-Meeting at* Leith, *ſhut up by Authority, to be broke open, and preaching in it to the ſeditious Mob. The Danger of her Majeſty and the Nation, from that Party. On the Neceſſity of chiefly encouraging thoſe who are true to the Revolution, according to the Addreſs of the Lords, and her Majeſty's Anſwer, of the* 12th *of* March *laſt. On the Pope's refuſing an Accommodation with the Emperor.*

From Saturday, November 6. to Wednesday, November 10. 1708.

Obſ. WHAT News have you at *London*, *Roger?*

Country-m. Newsenough, Maſter: We have War both at Home and Abroad.

Obſ. How, *Roger!* War at Home! I hope there's nothing in that.

Country-m. I wiſh there were not, Maſter; but I tell you 'tis true. You have no Reaſon to think, that the *Rehearſer*, whom every one knows to be the Herald of *Rome* and High-Church, has threaten'd us ſo long in vain. He has been telling us what we were to expect a great while. You know he condemn'd the Presbyterians, and all other Diſſenters, long ago, to the Fate of *Korah*, *Dathan*, and *Abiram*; but finding that the Earth will not open to ſwallow them up, his Party is reſolv'd to knock them down, and now they have diſplay'd the bloody Flag.

Obſ. I don't love Myſteries, *Roger*; ſpeak plain *Engliſh*.

Country-m. Won't *Iriſh* or *Scotch* do, Maſter? You know both thoſe People are the Queen's Subjects, as well as we. But I will keep you no longer in Suſpence. There were two Presbyterian Miniſters impriſon'd lately in *Ireland*, Maſter, for preaching, one of them at *Drogheda*, whoſe Name, I am inform'd, is *Bigger*, and the other elſewhere, whoſe Name is *Flemming*, both of 'em *Scotch*-men.

Obſ. I have heard indeed, *Roger*, that Popery and *Jacobitiſm* have increas'd more of late in *Ireland*, than formerly; and this is a plain Proof of it; for Tyranny, Superſtition, and Popery, uſually go Hand in Hand. But how came that about, *Roger?* What are the Circumſtances?

Country-m. I have not all the Circumſtances yet, Maſter; but you may depend upon the Fact, and I ſhall bring you the Particulars in a little Time. All that I can tell you at preſent, is, That there is an *Iriſh* Arch-biſhop or two, that have a Hand in the Affair, as I am inform'd.

Obſ. I am very well ſatisfy'd, *Roger*, that his Grace of *Canterbury* has no Hand in it; for the Faction libel his Lordſhip continually, and charge him, and all other moderate Church-men, as being Countenancers, or at leaſt Connivers at the Rebellion of *Korah*, becauſe they would not concur in their Occaſional Bills and Tacks, in order to obſtruct her Majeſty's Affairs in Parliament; hinder the raiſing of Money; diſturb the Peace of the Nation; and endanger the whole Confederacy.

Country-m. I know that very well, Maſter; and whatever ſome People may think, I am ſatisfy'd, if the Pretender ſhould ever be brought in by the Popiſh and High-Church Party of the *Rehearſer*'s Principles, his Grace of *York*, and my Lord of *London*, would be call'd to an Account for old Scores; the Sins of their former Days would be remember'd; the Arch-biſhop's *preaching againſt Popery in the Reign of the late King* James, *and his aſſerting, that there's no Sacrifice in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*, would be unpardonable Crimes; and the latter's appearing in Arms at the Revolution, and attending her preſent Majeſty, to join the Lord's, *&c.* who took Arms in the *North*, would be reckon'd like the Sin againſt the Holy Ghoſt, that is neither to be pardon'd in this Life, nor in that to come. And tho' now the Faction talks of her Majeſty, as Queen Regent, they would then treat her as a Rebel and Uſurper; for what they think deſerves Damnation in the next World, they certainly reckon unpardonable in this; and they who would have brought in the Pretender, to dethrone her Majeſty, would never reckon their Game ſure, ſo long as her Head continu'd on her Shoulders.

Obſ. Your Reflexions are juſt enough, *Roger*; for, as I took Notice before, that the *Rehearſer*, in his Paper of the 4th of *September* laſt, Paragraph 6, 7, 8. impudently charg'd her Majeſty, the late King *William* and Queen *Mary*, as joining with Innocent Popes to depoſe their Father, and charg'd all thoſe who concurr'd in the late happy Revolution, that they would join with the Pope, or the Devil, to depoſe their Kings. We are not to doubt, but were it in their Power, they would ſend all thoſe to the Devil, whom they charge with doing ſo; for that's the natural Conſequence of the ſlaviſh and tyrannical Principles with which they are inſpir'd: And by what they have now done in *Ireland*, we may ſee what they would do every where elſe, could their Ability keep Pace with their Will.

Country-m. That's plain enough, Maſter; and by their rabbling the eſtabliſh'd Miniſters in *Scotland*, and Juſtices of Peace, that came to protect them in the Exerciſe of their Function according to Law, as we have had ſeveral Accounts from thence, and by their obſtinate Refuſal to pray for her Majeſty in their non-jurant Conventicles at *Edinburgh*, and elſewhere, we may eaſily gueſs how they would have treated her Majeſty, and all her honeſt and loyal Subjects, had God, for our Sins, been pleas'd to ſuffer the Pretender to have ſucceeded in the late Invaſion.

Obſ. I hope, *Roger*, when the Parliament meets, an Enquiry will be made, by whoſe Influence and Connivance Popery and *Jacobitiſm* are become ſo rampant in *Scotland* and *Ireland*?

Country-m. 'Tis high Time, Maſter; for I have heard lately from *Scotland*, that one *Erſkin*, a Chaplain to one of her Majeſty's Men of War, had the Impudence to come from on Board his Ship, and countenanc'd the *Jacobite* Mob at *Leith* to break open the Doors of a Non-jurant Meeting-houſe there, that were ſhut up by Authority, and preach'd to them when he had done. I am ſure, Maſter, had I been his Captain, I would have chaſtis'd him; yet theſe are the Perſons, in whoſe Behalf ſome are ſo eager for a Toleration in *Scotland*, and cry out of Perſecution, becauſe 'tis not granted.

Obſ. We ſhall talk of that Subject another Time, *Roger*; but this I think my ſelf oblig'd to ſay at preſent, That if Care be not taken to fill all Eccleſiaſtical Vacancies in *England* and *Ireland*, as they happen, with Perſons firm to the Principles of the Revolution, zealous for her Majeſty's Title, as Queen *de Jure*, as well as *de Facto*, and who are known to be firm to the Proteſtant Succeſſion, and

of

of a charitable Temper towards their fellow Proteſtant Subjects, that diſſent from them, 'tis in vain for us to think, that the Liberty and Peace of theſe Iſlands, and of her Majeſty's other Dominions, can be preſerv'd. We may be convinc'd of this from the preſent Inſtances you have brought me from *Ireland* and *Scotland*.* The former is particularly attended with ſuch aggravating Circumſtances, of Rancor and Ungratitude, as are enough to make every true Proteſtant's Hair ſtand on end, and to rouſe us up to conſider where we are, when a People, who did twice in the laſt Century preſerve the Proteſtant and *Engliſh* Intereſt in that Kingdom, ſhould be more inhumanly treated now by fellow Proteſtants, than they have been at any Time ſince the Reſtoration. King *Charles* the II. was ſo ſenſible of the Loyalty of the Presbyterians in the *North* of *Ireland* to his Father and himſelf, that during his Reign, he not only ſuffer'd them to enjoy their Liberty, but gave them Marks of his Royal Bounty at the ſame Time when thoſe of their Perſwaſion in *Great Britain* were very ungratefully us'd. The ſame Indulgence and Bounty was continu'd to them during the Reign of the late King *James*, tho' a Papiſt, was augmented in that of King *William* and Queen *Mary* of glorious Memory; and, I am fully ſatisfy'd, would never have been diminiſh'd in that of her preſent Majeſty, had ſhe always been faithfully ſerv'd by thoſe ſhe entruſted in that Kingdom; and we have no Reaſon to doubt, but ſhe will be graciouſly pleas'd to order a Redreſs, when the Matter is duly repreſented to her: For, 'tis very hard, that they ſhould not only be now brought under the Sacramental Teſt, which was never impos'd upon 'em before, by which they can neither bear Civil or Military Offices, tho' they always acquitted themſelves well in both, but that they ſhould alſo be made liable to Perſecution on Account of their Diſſent. Certainly this can be no Argument to perſwade the *Scotch* Presbyterians, that their Church-Conſtitution is well ſecur'd, or the *Engliſh* Diſſenters, that their Toleration is inviolable. I humbly think, *Roger*, we may make this juſt Reflexion upon the Whole, That our Noble Patriots, the Lords, have good Reaſon to enquire who it is that obſtructs the Performance of their Loyal Addreſs, and of her Majeſty's gracious Promiſe, of the 12th of *March* laſt, *That thoſe ſhall be principally depended upon, and encourag'd, who have been, ever ſince the Revolution, moſt ſteady and firm to the Intereſt of the late King, and of her Majeſty, during her happy Reign.*

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, that both Lords and Commons will join in this Enquiry; for I can't but obſerve, that the *Iriſh* Diſſenters are juſt treated as their Brethren in *England* were in King *Charles* the II's Time; for when ſome of 'em in Parliament, as Alderman *Love* in particular, choſe rather to have the penal Laws continu'd againſt themſelves, than conſent to have thoſe Fences repeal'd, which kept Papiſts out of Places of Power and Truſt; ſo the *Iriſh* Diſſenters choſe rather to be ſubject to the Sacramental Teſt, than to loſe the Bill for preventing the Growth of Popery, to which that Clauſe was added here: And as the Court did then, in Revenge for the Zeal of the *Engliſh* Diſſenters againſt Popery, bring them under the Laſh, we plainly perceive, that ſome People have done their Utmoſt to have the *Iriſh* Diſſenters ſerv'd in the ſame Manner: But who they are, and with what Views, the World muſt be left to judge, 'till our Parliament have Time to enquire.

Obſ. What News from Abroad, *Roger*?

Country-m. The laſt Mails ſay, Maſter, that the Pope has refus'd the Mediation of the *Venetians*, to accommodate Matters betwixt him and the Emperor; and that he ſcruples to admit his Imperial Majeſty's Plenipotentiary to Audience: But he begins to pay for his Stubborneſs, for the Imperialiſts have taken his Fortreſs of *Bondeno*, with 1200 Men in it, beſides other Places.

Obſ. I perceive High-Church is mad all the World over, *Roger*; the Spirit of Anti-chriſtianiſm is uniform in its Malice and Rage, againſt Moderation and Liberty, and in Diſloyalty and Ingratitude to thoſe Princes which have been their chief Benefactors. The preſent Emperor has juſt Reaſon to treat the Pope as his Predeceſſor *Frederick* the II. treated Pope *Adrian*, one of our high-flying *Engliſh* Prieſts. But more of this another Time, *Roger*.

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